

01 May 2007

TO: All persons who operate a motor vehicle (Government Owned, Leased, or Personally Owned) on Redstone Arsenal (RSA) or engage in the operation of a Government Owned or Leased Vehicle while not within the confines of RSA.

FROM: Commander, US Army Garrison – Redstone Arsenal.

SUBJECT: Use of Hand-Held Communication Devices while Operating a Motorized Personal or General Services Administration Vehicle.

POLICY: The Commander, US Army Garrison - Redstone will take appropriate action to restrict drivers from using any hand-held communication device or related equipment while operating a motorized vehicle on RSA or while in the operation of a Government Owned or Leased Vehicle outside the confines of RSA Installation Property. Policy violators may be subject to suspension or revocation of installation driving privileges, as well as loss of privileges to operate any Government Owned or Leased Vehicle while outside of Redstone Arsenal property.

PURPOSE: To inform RSA personnel that the current hand-held communication device usage policy is now **expanded to include the operation of a Government Owned or Leased Vehicle while within or outside the confines of RSA Installation Property** and actions that will be taken against individuals who violate this policy.

APPLICABILITY: This Policy applies to all persons who operate a motorized vehicle on RSA or a Government Owned or Leased Vehicle while outside the Installation.

DISCUSSION:

a. An increasing number of motor vehicle accidents attributed to operator distractions, particularly those resulting from cell-phone usage, has prompted safety concerns nationwide and specifically here at Redstone Arsenal. Vehicle drivers are strongly encouraged not to engage in distracting activities, which cause unsafe acts, while the vehicle is in motion.

(1) Effective 1 December 2005, on all DoD installations cell phone use is prohibited in moving vehicles, unless used with a hands-free device.

* This policy supersedes Garrison Policy No. 385-55, 24 Jan 2006, SOP 1-1,

(2) **Effective 1 May 2007 it is prohibited for all RSA Government and Contractor employees to use wireless cell phones, unless used with hands-free devices, while in the operation of Government Owned or Leased Vehicles outside the confines of RSA installation property.**

b. It is appropriate that the Federal government assume a leadership role in promoting the safe use of wireless telephones by its employees when they are engaged in Official Government business and in operation of Federally maintained motorized Vehicles.

c. Vehicle operators on a DoD Installation and **operators of Government Owned or Leased Vehicles not on RSA Installation Property**, shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device. The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices (except for hands-free cellular phones) while operating a vehicle is prohibited. Vehicle operators shall not use hand-held communications, navigation, or electronic devices such as personal data assistants (PDA) and global positioning systems (GPS) while operating a motor vehicle. Use of those devices impairs driving and masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, and human speech. DoD component safety guidance should note the potential for driver distractions such as eating and drinking, operating radios, CD players, etc. Whenever possible this should only be done when the vehicle is safely parked.

d. There will be two exceptions to this prohibition:

(1) Emergency responders using cell phones and hand-held radios: Military police, fire fighters, emergency maintenance personnel, and hazardous material handlers operating in immediate clean-up situations.

(2) Safety/Emergency personnel using hand-held radios: Range safety personnel operating vehicle mounted radios on active ranges, and FCC licensed amateur radio operators operating vehicle mounted radios are also exempt from this prohibition.

e. Upon issuance of a DD FORM 1408 (Armed Forces Traffic Citation), the offending individual's sponsor, commander, or employing agency director will be notified.

f. A total of 2 points will be assessed to the offending driver's driving record for the initial and each subsequent violation. Redstone Arsenal driving privileges will be suspended or revoked for violations as listed in AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, Chapter 5, Driving Records and the Traffic Point System, paragraph 5-1, Driving Records. RSA driving privileges will also be revoked or suspended if various violations total accumulation of 12 points within 12 consecutive months or 18 points or within 24 consecutive months. Suspensions based on traffic points will not exceed 6

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months. Revocations based on traffic points will be for a period of 6 to 12 months. (Driving privileges are usually suspended when other measures have failed to improve a driver's performance, or pending actions that may result in revocation. Driving privileges are revoked for serious moving violations or when other available corrective actions fail to produce the desired driver improvement.) A longer period of revocation may be imposed on the basis of a driver's overall driving record considering the frequency, flagrancy, severity of moving violations, and the response to previous driver improvement measures. Points assessed against a driver will remain in effect for point accumulation purposes for 24 consecutive months.

g. In all cases, military personnel must complete a prescribed remedial driver's course before driving privileges will be reinstated. Federal civilian employees and contract support personnel will also be encouraged to successfully complete a prescribed remedial driver's course as a positive factor in being considered for reinstatement of RSA driving privileges.

h. Offenders subject to suspension or revocation of RSA driving privileges will be notified by the Garrison Commander or designee and provided administrative due process in accordance with AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, Chapter 2, Driving Privileges, Paragraph 2-5, Suspension or Revocation of Driving Privileges and paragraph 2-6, Administrative Due Process for Suspensions and Revocations.

REFERENCES:

DoD 32 CFR 634.25 - Installation Traffic Codes.

AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, Chapter 2, Driving Privileges and Chapter 5, Driving Records and the Traffic Point System.

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JOHN A. OLSHEFSKI
Colonel, OD
Garrison Commander

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MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Post on index at appendix B, GARRISON SOP 1-1, and maintain in numerical sequence as part of the appendix.
2. Remove when superseded, rescinded, or cancelled.